



10

SEPTEMBER
1992

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Alternative Information Record

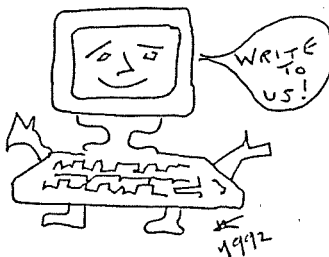
AIRMAIL

At long last we have managed to put the AIR mailing list onto computer which should help maintain and also improve the accuracy of our record-keeping. However such change-overs from manual to computer systems sometimes cause hiccups so if anything doesn't seem right when we contact you about subscriptions please let us know.

This issue should have something for everyone. It contains a variety of pieces, including a report about the LIWO Support Group and its work. This body emerged from the work of LWPM. We would urge any readers of Alternative Information Record who are members of the Library Association (LA) to read the report and to turn up at the meeting on South African Libraries in September, details of which are to be found at the end of the report. They could also vote at the LA AGM, to be held at the TUC building on October 7th, for formal recognition to be given to LIWO.

We are still very much looking for extra help with AIR if anyone out there can give it. Arduous and time-consuming work is not required, just help with input to the journal and its production. We would be especially glad to hear from people living in and around London. We will be holding a London meeting soon about the future of AIR and how, now we have reached the age of 10, we can get through those difficult teenage times! Read the article in this issue on "Joining in the work of AIR" and please do contact us if you would be interested in attending such a meeting. We think that without further help we may well have to reduce the number of issues a year to three while maintaining the subscription charges at their current level (which we barely break even on anyhow!).

AIR contact address:
c/o 6 Endsleigh street
London WC1



This issue of AIR edited by Declan McHugh, with help from Martyn Lowe. Selection of materials by Martyn and Declan. Typed up by Declan. Graphics by Martyn Lowe except when obviously not his style!

WRITING FOR AIR

AIR has now been going for over two years (!) and we hope we have managed to improve both the look and the contents of the journal. However, we are aware there is still much that could be improved. Content selection is one area. We have had an internal debate for quite a while on this and also on further improvements to the look of AIR. Hopefully this aspect of AIR has very definitely improved from two years back. Our print quality and therefore photocopy quality is much better than when we started out. However, we are still borrowing most of the equipment that is required to produce AIR, though the situation has improved now that one of us has a decent computer. Of course that leads to problems in itself since one person then inevitably ends up doing the typing up of the materials. We hope to seek external funding from charitable sources to enable us to buy some equipment - computers, a photocopier, a good printer, perhaps a modem - which will lessen the wear and tear which the present methods of production cause.

Turning to our editorial policy, in as much as we have such a thing it can be summed up as follows.

- 1) That AIR should cover all aspects of peace movement information work, and information work outside the peace movement that converges with peace movement interests. So we have had bibliographies, reviews of libraries, archives and peace organisations, reading lists, news, humorous pieces, etc.
- 2) The contents of AIR should reflect an overview of the peace movement - we have a positive policy of not pushing any specific organisation or ideological line that exists within the movement. We are interested in the broadest range of peace movement concerns.
- 3) Ideally we would like the contents of AIR to be as far as possible written by those who are most involved with the organisations and issues we cover. This is not an easy task so we at least try and use organisations' and individuals' own words as expressed in their materials. We do try to be self-critical in our editing and to avoid pushing too much our own individual philosophical standpoints.

An expanded editorial group would be a very valuable way of ensuring that full debate about individual pieces took place and we invite people to join in with the work of the journal in this and other ways. Unfortunately geographical realities mean that such people are likely to be restricted to London which is where the two main people involved in producing AIR also live.

- 4) we positively welcome input from people about their information work, organisations etc. Indeed we have tried quite

hard to look for and commission people to send us material that could be featured in AIR.

5) We would also welcome original graphics that people might have or do and which would be suitable for AIR. We believe that it is very important to use as many original graphics as possible since many peace movement journals just tend to reprint other peoples graphics (which may be years old) again and again.

6) Finally AIR represents a great opportunity for national and international networking. A very high percentage of those on our mailing list live and work outside the UK. We have subscribers and readers in all four parts of the globe - East, West, North and South.

As mentioned above AIR is meant to provide an overview of all aspects of information work for peace and social justice. We can only fulfill this function if our readers help to keep us informed about what they are doing, and about other things that are happening which they know about but we may not. LWPM is meant to be a networking body so let's get some better two-way communication going. Keep us in touch with what you are up to.

Drafted by Martyn Lowe; edited, rewritten and added to by Declan McHugh (a fine example of how we produce copy!).

RESOURCES

National

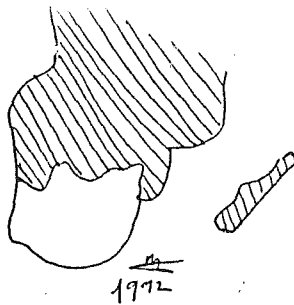
WILD.

WILD is a new eco-activist periodical. It covers Earth 1st type actions throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The first issue includes features on actions against companies importing tropical hard-woods, anti-car actions, Deep Ecology and an analysis of the Rio Earth summit. There is also a comprehensive list of Earth 1st groups throughout the country which is alone worth the cost of the journal.

WILD costs just 30p for which you get a 12 page tabloid size newspaper (recycled paper). WILD can be contacted at:

P.O. Box 2573
London N16 6HN.

Martyn Lowe



LIWO (Library and Information Workers Organisation) - South Africa.

In AIR 5 we reproduced the founding statement of LIWO. Since then LIWO has expanded from being an organisation based in Natal to a national organisation. LIWOLET, the journal of LIWO, has charted the organisation's work over the last two years. The main task of LIWO has been to try to desegregate libraries within South Africa. LIWO is also involved in resource centre projects with the townships and has strong links with literacy programmes throughout South Africa.

In January of this year I got together with some people involved with LINK (the North/South Librarians Organisation) (see AIR 1) to form the LIWO Support Group (LSG).

LSG's aim is to get publicity for LIWO and to persuade the Library Association (L.A.) in this country to recognise LIWO.

The LINK journal LINK-UP has given a lot of coverage to LIWO, and an article written by Rose Bell (secretary of LIWO) appeared recently in ASSIGNATION, the journal of the ASLIB Social Sciences Information Group (See Vol 9 No. 4 - July 1992). In addition the International Group of the LA (IGLA) has been approached by the LSG and an IGLA motion to recognise LIWO will be going to the LA AGM this October 7th.

AIR readers who are members of the LA are urged to go to this AGM on Wednesday October 7th to vote on the issue. The AGM will be held at the TUC HQ which is in Great Russell Street, London WC1.

Most importantly the LSG is to co-sponsor a public meeting about LIWO this September (details below).

While South Africa has more or less disappeared from the headlines, some of the underlying structures of apartheid are still in place; LIWO's work should be supported in this context.

Martyn Lowe
(Sorry about the plethora of acronyms - Declan McHugh)

The LIWO Support Group may be contacted via:

John Pateman
32 Petten Grove
Orpington
Kent.

For more information on ASSIGNATION contact:

Mrs Hogan
National Institute for Social Work
5 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SS.

The July 1992 issue mentioned above is a special issue on International Development. Apart from the LIWO article there are other articles on 'Human Rights & Development' by Katrina Brown of the Anti-Slavery International; 'Publishing on Minorities and Development, the work of the Minority Rights Group';

LINK can be contacted at:
c/o 64 Ennersdale Road
London SE13.

* Remember if you are an LA member to go this year's AGM. it is important *

Martyn Lowe

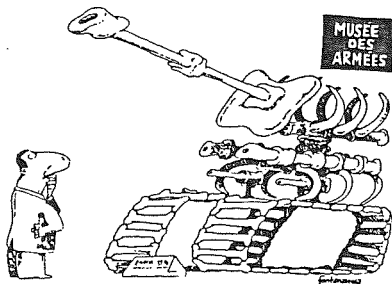
Libraries under Apartheid ... has anything changed?
A discussion of government and freedom of information
and expression against the background of political
events in South Africa from 1990-1992.

led by Christopher Merrett
Library and information Workers Organisation, South
Africa (LIWO)

Wednesday 23rd September 1992 at 6pm at
The School of Oriental and African Studies
Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H
(Nearest underground station is Russell Square)

Cost - £3.50
More details from Philip Thomas, IGLA Treasurer,
25 Bromford Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3XD.
Tel: 021 454 0935.

Sponsored by the International Group of the Library
Association (IGLA) and the LIWO Support Group (LSG).



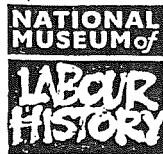
PEACE MUSEUMS

The transference of Canadian disarmament research materials (see Organisations - National below) to the stewardship of the Canadian Armed Forces raises questions yet again in my mind about the need for adequately funded national peace libraries/archives/museums. Too often peace materials of current or historical importance slip through the net and become inaccessible. They often get thrown away, the ultimate archival crime. Of course this never happens with military documents, a sad sign of governmental prioritisation. Governments are rarely interested in peace culture - unless to suppress or ridicule it. It is true that governmental priorities and values both influence society and are influenced by it in a two-way process, but the process is unequal and once a status quo has been set up it is very hard to change; people literally lose understanding of and tolerance for other points of view than the ones they are constantly presented with and conditioned to. It is very easy to ensure that they lose sight of the alternatives.

How many well stocked Peace sections do you know of in bookshops or libraries? How many Peace Studies Departments in universities? Yet you will easily find the War sections and the War Departments. When have you ever come across a peace demonstration supported by our government? Yet there are weapons and war-glorifying Armed Forces Spectaculars every year which involve 2,000 men every night for two weeks.

A culture which takes violent responses and "solutions" for granted perpetuates itself and stifles alternatives. And alternatives do exist. Below are some more organisations trying to provide access to some. We in Librarians Within the Peace Movement and AIR, along with our sister organisations nationally and internationally, are small-scale examples of attempts to reveal and promote the alternatives.

National



The National Museum of Labour History

"Museums exist to collect, preserve, interpret and display artifacts for present and future generations - the peace movement has been one area which has been previously neglected". The

National Museum of Labour History which has two sites in Manchester has decided that it would like to collect peace artifacts - everything from bits of the fence at Greenham to song books, photographs, pamphlets and records. They also want to collect people's recollections in taped or written form. The appeal which I quote from above has the aim of reaching people so that they respond with materials but also to provide information for a directory of peace-related holdings. (They do not appear to know about "Peace Information Resources; a guide to 31 British Collections with comprehensive subject index" which I wrote in 1987. Hopefully this would provide a good basis for such a directory).

The National Museum of Labour History has publicised their appeal in specialised museum journals but not surprisingly given this channel the response has been minimal. Perhaps we can help improve the response by this piece.

The address for more information or to send materials to is:

Beverley Butler
Display Officer
National Museum of Labour History
103 Princess Street
Manchester M1 6DD
Tel: 061 228 7212

The Working Class Movement Library.

Another Manchester library. This one collects and displays materials on the history of the radical, trade union and socialist movements in Britain and Ireland over the last 200 years. Besides books and journals and pamphlets there are banners, badges, prints, photographs, posters, and other items such as plates, cups and furniture. Most have been collected personally by Ruth and Edmund Frow. The museum celebrates the history of the common people. The museum used to be in the Frow's home but Salford Council have now provided a building (including an exhibition room) and staff. The Museum welcomes visits from the public and is open on Sundays so that working people have a better chance to come.

The Working Class Movement Library is at
Jubilee House,
51 Crescent, Salford,
Manchester.
Tel: 061 736 3601.

It is open Tuesday - Friday, and Sunday afternoons.

Give Peace
a Chance
TRUST

Give Peace A Chance Trust - Peace Museums Conference

I hope the National Museum of Labour history knows about this conference. It would be silly to duplicate effort. On 10-12 September 1992 the Give Peace a Chance Trust is holding a conference at Bradford University (home of the Department of Peace Studies) which will bring together the directors of the world's peace museums to discuss the setting up of a Peace Museum in Britain. The conference will be trying to answer various questions about the scope of the proposed museum, its location, funding etc.

For more information contact:

Gerald Drewett
Give Peace A Chance Trust
20 The Drive
Hertford SG14 3DF

International

International Futures Library

I only found out the other day about the existence of this intriguing library in Austria. It was established in 1986 by author Robert Jungk who has written a book on "The Nuclear State". There is a staff of three and funding comes from both Salzburg and State authorities. The library is dedicated to collecting from all over the world reports of ideas, inventions and experiments which could lead to a more peaceful, less exploitative world. There is a quarterly journal which is in German but may in future (no pun intended) be translated into an English edition. They are also publishing books based on the most promising materials. "The printed as well as unprinted reports will be preserved in a 'Data Bank of Hope', accessible to all those who are looking for good ideas and living examples of a more just, human and sustainable world".

Contact them at:

The International Futures Library
Imbergstrasse 2,A
5020 Salzburg 5020
Austria
Tel: 0043 (0)662 73206.

Declan McHugh

ORGANISATIONSNational

MEDACT

AN ACTIVE MEDICAL CAMPAIGN

MEDACT

For those who do not know already we mention here that the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (MCANW) and the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) have merged and redefined their aims to become MEDACT - Medical Action for Global Security. Like SANA becoming Scientists for Global Responsibility and Professions for World Disarmament and Development becoming Professions for Social Responsibility, the end of the cold war has provided the impetus for a re-examination of aims and roles. MEDACT "combines the aims, membership and resources of the two organisations, and extends the campaign against weapons of mass destruction to working for peace and global security". "Global Security" is the new periodical for MEDACT, and the quarterly international journal "Medicine and War" will also be reflecting the new organisation's concerns.

Medact wants members from all branches of the health professions, and although it will continue to campaign against and educate people about the continuing menace of weapons of mass destruction, it will also work to eliminate "poverty, hunger, disease, over-population and environmental degradation".

MEDACT's address is: 601 Holloway Road, London N19 4DJ. Tel 071 272 2020. Ian Lee continues as the Medical Educational Trust's Research/Education Officer at MEDACT HQ.

 Canadian

 Institute for

 International

 Peace and

 Security
International

Closure of Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security.

On 25 February the Canadian Government announced its intention to close down the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, an AIR subscriber. The Institute had published many valuable reports and other items including the Disarmament Thesaurus reviewed in AIR 1. We are sad that this decision has been taken but pleased that at least the contents of the Institute's library, and the database and thesaurus work, will not be lost. They will however be transferred to a military setting - the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in Toronto. It is promised that the resources will be available to the Canadian public on a national basis.



Nonviolent Direct Action Group - Sri Lanka.

The Group continues to keep us informed of their activities. The NVDAG Public Library is now in its 3rd year and at present some 475 people use both the Public and the Children's libraries. The Group has written to me asking for used books for the Children's library. Please if you have any suitable books (obviously visually appealing, simple and optimistic ones would be best since the children will know little English and are growing up in a civil war situation) send them direct to:

Secretary K. Jeevagathas
The NVDAG
29 Kandy Road,
Kaithady-Nunavil
Chavakachcheri
Sri Lanka.

Yugoslavia

We have been sent from Yugoslavia the first edition of 'Why' magazine - 'A Publication for Human Rights and Peace' which appeared earlier this year. The magazine intended to publish monthly in both English and Serbo-Croat but this was before events took such a turn for the worse in Bosnia. The publishers are Sarajevo Citizens Forum and the Sarajevo Centre for Peace. The editor is Ibrahim Spahic, President of the Centre for Peace, and the magazine and the groups behind it should be supported in their work for peace and reconciliation amidst the grinding of the war machine. "Hundreds of thousands of participants of these peace events opened the process of establishment of peacemaking culture and an antiwar campaign, giving birth to the hope that after this war our mutual life will not only be possible but improved through the understanding of the senselessness of these horrifying experiences"

The address for the journal is:

Dobrovoljacka 3,
71000 Sarajevo
Yugoslavia.
Tel: 38 71 214884
Fax: 38 71 216238

The account number for the Peace Centre for financial contributions is:
10100-678-40526.

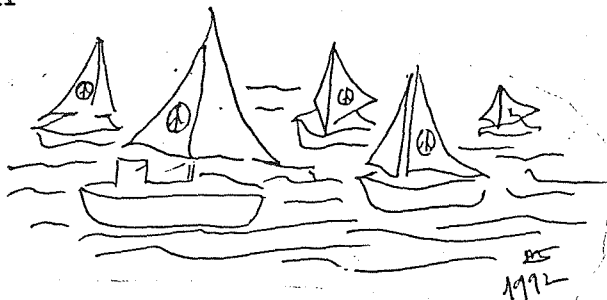
In this country War Resisters International are doing a great deal of good work on the Yugoslav Crisis. They have produced a supplement of Peace News which lists the major peace groups and what they have been doing. The National Peace Council too has been doing some excellent coordinating work in the British peace movement on the Yugoslav crisis.

War Resisters' International
55 Dawes St,
London SE17 1EL
Tel: 071 703 7189

National Peace Council
88 Islington High St,
London N1 8EG
Tel: 071 354 5200

Declan McHugh

BIBLIOGRAPHY



The Peace Navy - A Selective Bibliography.

During the 1970s a number of boats sailed the seven seas engaged upon Nonviolent Direct Action (NVDA). One of these boats was the Golden Harvest which took books to occupied Namibia as a part of Operation Namibia. The plan of this operation was to help start the first Namibian Free Public Library and to challenge the South African Regime. Another boat was the Sea Shepherd which was engaged in direct action to stop the whaling industry. The Sea Shepherd project is still in existence and can be contacted at: PO Box 5, Ashford, Middlesex, Kent, UK. Other boats were engaged in NVDA to stop nuclear bomb tests and it is those boats that this bibliography concentrates on.

1) Reynolds, Earle.
'The Forbidden Voyage.'
Cassell, London, 1961.

This is an account of the Phoenix, a boat which challenged the American Atomic Energy Commission atomic bomb tests in the Pacific during 1958 and 1959.

2) McTaggart, David.
[With Hunter, Robert]
'Greenpeace 111.'
Collins, London, 1978.
ISBN: 0-00-211885-8.

An account of one of the early anti-nuclear testing Nonviolent

Direct Actions, carried out by the founder of the Vancouver [Canada] Greenpeace Foundation during 1972.

3) Caron, Elsa.

'FRI Alert - by the crew of the FRI.'
Caveman Press, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1974.

"This is the Yacht Fri's own radioactive story of her protest voyage into the French bomb test zone". This was a New Zealand-based NVDA to stop French bomb tests at Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific. Once the Project was over the boat went on an around the world Peace Odyssey. The boat is now based in Svendborg, Denmark where it had been built in 1912 (address: Fri, Troense Strand Vej 21, 5700 Svendborg, Denmark). The book is a large format one with many photographs.

4) Toulat, Jean.

'Objectif Mururoa'.
Editions Robert Laffont, Paris, 1974.

An account by one of the French crew members of the Fri and its voyage to the Mururoa Atoll.

Martyn Lowe.

The Good The Bad and THE IDIOT^{IC}

We have only room for two this issue - we'll have a whole page of them next time including some real classics of the genre!

"The Muse was a librarian,
Stuck inside dusting books;
She didn't like her job
And she didn't like her looks"

(Simon Rae's 'Pome:The Mersey Muse'; The Muse ends up taking off her specs and drinking gin and making love on the ferry.)

"The Bloods and the Crips (were) the City's dominant gangs. They drew up a formal Treaty based on the 1978 Camp David settlement between Egypt and Israel, after finding a copy in a local library" (Guardian, May 30 1992, after the LA riots)